

Case 6873

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the matter of

U.S. National Phase Entry  
Under 35 USC 371 from  
the International Application of  
POLICICCHIO, Nicola John et al  
Int'l Application No. PCT/US98/20513  
Filed in the RO/US on 01 October 1998  
Entitled: Detergent Composition For Hard Surfaces  
Comprising Hydrophilic Shear-Thinning Polymer  
At Very Low Level

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C.7.  
8/9/00

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before computing the fees for entering the captioned International Application into the U.S. National Phase, please enter the following amendments **IN THE CLAIMS**:

- \* Please cancel Claims 1 thru 10.

Please add the following new claims:

- Sub D17  
A2
1. Detergent composition for cleaning floors comprising from about 0.0001% to about 0.2% of hydrophilic, shear-thinning polymer that is capable of inhibiting molecular aggregation of surfactant solution on floors during the dry-down process.
  12. The detergent composition according to Claim 11 wherein the level of said polymer is from about 0.0001% to about 0.1%.
  13. The detergent composition according to Claim 12 wherein the level of said polymer is from about 0.0005% to about 0.08%.
  14. The detergent composition according to Claim 11 wherein the hydrophilic, shear-thinning polymer has a molecular weight of at least about 100,000.
  15. The detergent composition according to Claim 14 wherein the hydrophilic, shear-thinning polymer has a molecular weight of at least about 1,000,000.

17. The detergent composition of Claim 16 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is xanthan gum.

19. The detergent composition of Claim 18 wherein the level of detergent surfactant is from about 0.05% to about 0.30%; the level of one or more solvents is less than about 5.0%; and the pH is greater than about 9.5.

21. A detergent composition according to Claim 20 wherein the composition is obtained by dilution with from about 1:50 to about 1:250 parts per part of the composition of water of a more concentrated product form prior to use.

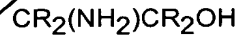
23. The detergent composition of Claim 22 wherein said suds suppressor is at a level of from about 0.0005% to about 0.02%.

25. The detergent composition of Claim 24 wherein said suds suppressor comprises a silicone suds suppressor.

27. The detergent composition of Claim 26 wherein the detergent surfactant has a linear structure and is selected from the group consisting of straight chain anionic and nonionic detergent surfactants.

28. The detergent composition of Claim 11 wherein the alkalinity is provided, at least in an effective amount, by volatile alkaline agents.

29. The detergent composition of Claim 28 wherein the volatile alkaline agent is an alkanol amine having the formula:



wherein each R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl groups containing from one to four carbon atoms and the total of carbon atoms in the compound is from three to six.

30. The detergent composition of Claim 29 wherein the volatile alkaline agent is 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol.

31. A kit comprising an implement containing a pad containing superabsorbent material and a detergent composition containing no more than about 0.5% detergent surfactant; a level of one, or more solvents, that is less than about 5.0%; and a pH of more than about 9.

32. The detergent composition of Claim 11 in a container, in association with instructions to use it with a pad containing a superabsorbent material.

33. The process of cleaning a surface comprising applying an effective amount of a detergent composition containing no more than about 0.5% detergent surfactant; a level of one or more solvents, that is less than about 5.0%; and a pH of more than about 9 and absorbing the composition in an absorbent structure comprising a superabsorbent material.

34. The process of Claim 33 wherein said surface is ceramic and said detergent composition comprises an effective amount of suds suppressor.

35. The process of Claim 34 wherein said surface is vinyl or a polyurethane coated vinyl surface and said detergent composition comprises an effective amount of suds suppressor.

36. The process of Claim 35 wherein said surface is wood and pre-finished wood and wood laminates and said detergent composition comprises an effective amount of suds suppressor.

37. The process of cleaning a surface comprising applying an effective amount of a detergent composition containing no more than about 0.5% detergent surfactant; a level of one or more solvents, that is less than about 5.0%; and a pH of more than about 9 and absorbing the composition using a string, sponge, strip mop or floor cloth.

The support for these amendments is found in the claims as originally filed. These amendments are being entered to bring the claims into conformance with, *inter alia*, 37 CFR §1.75; no new matter is added.

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